

all 5 star matches in wwe history

All 5 Star Matches in WWE History have become a notable topic of discussion among wrestling fans and critics alike. The concept of a five-star match originates from the wrestling journalist Dave Meltzer, who rates matches based on various criteria, including in-ring work, storytelling, and crowd reactions. In the world of professional wrestling, receiving a five-star rating is considered one of the highest honors, signifying a match that transcends the norm and delivers an unforgettable experience. This article will delve into the history of five-star matches within WWE, highlighting the key bouts that have achieved this prestigious rating, the wrestlers involved, and the impact these matches had on the industry.

Understanding the Five-Star Rating System

The five-star rating system is a subjective evaluation that has been utilized by fans and critics to assess the quality of wrestling matches. Dave Meltzer first introduced this system in the late 1980s, and it has since become a benchmark for excellence in professional wrestling. Here's a breakdown of how the rating works:

- **1 Star:** Poor match, lacking in quality.
- **2 Stars:** Below average, with some redeeming qualities.
- **3 Stars:** Good match, enjoyable but not memorable.
- **4 Stars:** Excellent match, with great storytelling and in-ring work.
- **5 Stars:** A classic match that is exceptional in every way, often considered a must-see.

The Significance of Five-Star Matches in WWE

Achieving a five-star rating in WWE is a rare accomplishment. With the promotion's long history, only a select number of matches have reached this prestigious milestone. These matches often feature incredible storytelling, high-stakes drama, and outstanding performances from the wrestlers involved. The significance of these bouts extends beyond the squared circle; they frequently influence future storylines, elevate the careers of the wrestlers, and leave a lasting impact on the WWE Universe.

List of All Five-Star Matches in WWE History

While many matches have come close to receiving a five-star rating, only a handful have officially achieved this status in WWE's history. Below is a list of these remarkable matches, along with their details:

1. Ric Flair vs. Ricky Steamboat - NWA Chi-Town Rumble (1989)

- Date: February 20, 1989
- Event: Chi-Town Rumble
- Location: UIC Pavilion, Chicago, Illinois
- Significance: Although this match took place under the NWA banner, it had a profound influence on the wrestling world, including WWE. The trilogy between Flair and Steamboat is often cited as one of the greatest rivalries in wrestling history.

2. Shawn Michaels vs. Razor Ramon - WrestleMania X (1994)

- Date: March 20, 1994
- Event: WrestleMania X
- Location: Madison Square Garden, New York City, New York
- Significance: This ladder match is credited with popularizing the stipulation in WWE. Michaels and Ramon pushed the limits of athleticism and storytelling, creating a match that is still celebrated today.

3. Kurt Angle vs. Shawn Michaels - WrestleMania 21 (2005)

- Date: April 3, 2005
- Event: WrestleMania 21
- Location: Staples Center, Los Angeles, California
- Significance: A dream match that lived up to its hype, Angle and Michaels delivered a masterclass in wrestling technique and psychology. The match is remembered for its intense back-and-forth action and emotional storytelling.

4. John Cena vs. AJ Styles - Summerslam (2016)

- Date: August 21, 2016
- Event: Summerslam
- Location: Barclays Center, Brooklyn, New York
- Significance: This match marked a significant moment in Cena's career, as he faced one of the best in-ring performers of his generation. The clash showcased their contrasting styles and resulted in a thrilling encounter that

left fans on the edge of their seats.

5. The Usos vs. The New Day - Hell in a Cell (2017)

- Date: October 8, 2017
- Event: Hell in a Cell
- Location: Little Caesars Arena, Detroit, Michigan
- Significance: This tag team match is often hailed as one of the best in WWE history. The Usos and The New Day not only delivered an incredible performance but also showcased their chemistry and storytelling abilities within the structure of the Hell in a Cell.

6. Johnny Gargano vs. Andrade "Cien" Almas - NXT TakeOver: Philadelphia (2018)

- Date: January 27, 2018
- Event: NXT TakeOver: Philadelphia
- Location: Wells Fargo Center, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- Significance: This match is widely regarded as a modern classic, highlighting the depth of talent in WWE's developmental territory, NXT. Gargano and Almas put on a spectacular display of athleticism and emotion, culminating in a dramatic finish.

Factors Contributing to Five-Star Matches

Several key elements contribute to a match achieving a five-star rating. Understanding these factors can provide insight into what makes a wrestling match exceptional:

1. In-Ring Ability

The wrestlers' technical skills, athleticism, and execution play a crucial role in a match's quality. The ability to perform complex maneuvers, sell moves effectively, and maintain a fluid pace can elevate a match's overall appeal.

2. Storytelling

Professional wrestling is as much about storytelling as it is about athleticism. The ability to convey emotions, develop character arcs, and create a compelling narrative throughout the match is essential for engaging the audience.

3. Crowd Engagement

A match's atmosphere is heavily influenced by the audience's reactions. A strong crowd can elevate a match, making the experience more immersive for both the wrestlers and the viewers.

4. Stipulations and Context

The stakes involved in a match, such as championship titles or personal rivalries, can significantly enhance the drama and tension. Unique stipulations, like ladder or cage matches, often add an extra layer of excitement.

The Legacy of Five-Star Matches

Five-star matches have left an indelible mark on WWE and professional wrestling as a whole. They serve as benchmarks for quality, inspiring both current and future generations of wrestlers to strive for excellence. The impact of these matches extends beyond their immediate spectacle; they often shape future storylines and feuds, leading to even greater matches down the line.

Moreover, the wrestlers involved in these matches often experience a boost in their careers, gaining recognition for their performances that can lead to more significant opportunities within the industry. This legacy continues to motivate wrestlers to push the boundaries of what is possible in the ring, ultimately contributing to the evolution of professional wrestling.

Conclusion

In summary, the history of **all 5 star matches in WWE** is a testament to the artistry and athleticism that defines professional wrestling. Each of these matches represents a unique moment in wrestling history, showcasing the incredible talent and storytelling ability of the performers involved. As WWE continues to evolve, fans can only hope for more five-star encounters that will add to this illustrious legacy. The quest for perfection in the ring remains an enduring pursuit for wrestlers, and the five-star match rating serves as a guiding light on that journey.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are some of the most famous 5-star matches in WWE history?

Some of the most famous 5-star matches in WWE history include 'Shawn Michaels vs. Razor Ramon' at WrestleMania X, 'Bret Hart vs. Stone Cold Steve Austin' at WrestleMania 13, and 'The Undertaker vs. Shawn Michaels' at WrestleMania 25.

Who was the first WWE match to receive a 5-star rating from Dave Meltzer?

The first WWE match to receive a 5-star rating from Dave Meltzer was the 'Intercontinental Championship Ladder Match' between Shawn Michaels and Razor Ramon at WrestleMania X in 1994.

How many 5-star matches have occurred in WWE since its inception?

As of October 2023, there have been a total of 13 matches in WWE history that have received a 5-star rating from Dave Meltzer.

Are there any recent WWE matches that have been rated 5 stars?

Yes, one of the recent WWE matches that received a 5-star rating was the 'Daniel Bryan vs. AJ Styles' match at TLC 2018.

What criteria does Dave Meltzer use to rate matches and determine 5-star ratings?

Dave Meltzer's criteria for rating matches include factors such as in-ring work, crowd reactions, storytelling, and the overall impact of the match within the context of the event.

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